

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00
NSAE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 PM-04 H-01
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FM USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4234

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY GABORONE

AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMCONSUL CAPETOWN

C O N F I D E N T I A L USUN 2058

CAPETOWN FOR EMBASSY

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PORG, PDEV, ZA, WA, SF, UNSC

SUBJECT: NAMIBIA -- BRIEFING OF MARK CHONA AND DOMINIC
MULAISHO

SUMMARY: AMBASSADOR MCHENRY JUNE 27 BRIEFED MARK CHONA AND
DOMINIC MULAISHO, ZAMBIAN PRESIDENTIAL ADVISERS, ON CURRENT
STATUS OF WESTERN FIVE EFFORT ON NAMIBIA. CHONA EMPHASIZED
THE FUNDAMENTAL PROBLEM OF DEVELOPING CONFIDENCE AMONG PARTIES
AND ASKED A NUMBER OF QUESTIONS. HIS REACTION, HOWEVER, WAS
FAIRLY POSITIVE. END SUMMARY.

1. MARK CHONA AND DOMINIC MULAISHO CAME TO USUN EARLY JUNE 27
AT THEIR REQUEST FOR A BRIEFING ON CURRENT STATUS OF NAMIBIAN
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PROBLEM. FOLLOWING A DETAILED BRIEFING OF DEVELOPMENTS TO DATE
BY AMBASSADOR MCHENRY, CHONA UNDERScoreD THE CREATION OF
MUTUAL CONFIDENCE AMONG PARTIES AS BIGGEST PROBLEM STANDING
IN WAY OF A SOLUTION. HE SAID GOZ MUST DECIDE WHETHER,
AGAINST BACKGROUND OF PREVIOUS FALSE STARTS AND ANIMOSITIES,
IT CAN NOW ADVISE SWAPO THAT THE NEW EFFORT IS SERIOUS AND
IT IS TIME FOR SWAPO TO MOVE.

2. CHONA SUGGESTED THAT PLAN FOR A SOUTH AFRICA APPOINTED ADMINISTRATOR-GENERAL (AG) IS ONE OBVIOUS STICKING POINT. HE THOUGHT AG'S FUNCTION SHOULD BE RESTRICTED AS FAR AS POSSIBLE TO THAT OF A VIRTUAL FIGUREHEAD UNDER AUTHORITY OF SECRETARY GENERAL'S SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE (SR). HE SUGGESTED THAT EVEN IF AG'S FIELD REPRESENTATIVES CONTINUING TO CONDUCT A PRACTICAL ADMINISTRATION OF COUNTRY ARE SOUTH AFRICAN, EXECUTIVE LEVEL OF AG'S OFFICE SHOULD BE UN PERSONNEL. MCHENRY EXPLAINED OUR EFFORTS TO GET SYG STARTED ON PLANNING THE EXPLICIT AUTHORITY AND FUNCTION OF SR.

3. THE ZAMBIANS' ASKED WHETHER SYG PLANS TO START TALKS WITH SWAPO AND WHAT TIME LIMIT WOULD BE ON A TRANSITIONAL ADMINISTRATION. THEY SUGGESTED THAT SWAPO WOULD HAVE MORE CONFIDENCE IF WE DESCRIBED THE TRANSITIONAL ARRANGEMENTS INVOLVING THE AG AS MERELY A TECHNOCRATIC GROUP, INSTEAD OF CALLING IT A GOVERNMENT. THEY ALSO BELIEVE THAT IF PRESENT SCENARIO FAILS TO WORK OUT FOR SOME REASON, SWAPO WOULD HAVE LESS CONFIDENCE IN UN THAN IN SOME FORM OF WESTERN FIVE GUARANTEE. MCHENRY ACKNOWLEDGED THAT SUCH CONSIDERATIONS MIGHT HAVE TO BE LOOKED AT IN THAT CASE, BUT HE EXPRESSED HIS PERSONAL IMPRESSION THAT, WITH ALL HIS OTHER FAILINGS, VORSTER APPEARS TO BE A MAN WHOSE WORD CAN BE TRUSTED. THE SOUTH AFRICAN GOVERNMENT, IN ANY EVENT, WILL HAVE A HARD TIME BACKING AWAY FROM ARRANGEMENTS TO WHICH THEY HAVE ALREADY AGREED.

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4. AS A SIDE NOTE, CHONA INTERJECTED IN THE DISCUSSION OF POLITICAL PRISONERS HIS IMMEDIATE INTERPRETATION OF VORSTER'S INSISTENCE ON RELEASE OF SWAPO DETAINEES IN TANZANIA AND ZAMBIA. CHONA THOUGHT VORSTER WAS REFLECTING FACT THAT HE HAS AGENTS AMONG SWAPO DISSENTERS. HE SAID THAT GOZ WAS APPROACHED IN 1968 BY A SAG INTELLIGENCE REPRESENTATIVE TO NEGOTATE RELEASES OF SOME OF SWAPO PERSONNEL THE GOZ HAD CAPTURED. HE TOLD GOZ THAT SAG HAD BEEN QUIETLY INFILTRATING SWAPO SINCE 1960. FINALLY FOLLOWING A 1976 SOUTH AFRICAN ATTACK ON CAMP IN ZAMBIA HOUSING SWAPO PERSONNEL, GOZ LEARNED THAT THREE OR FOUR DAYS BEFORE ATTACK FOUR SAG AGENTS HAD FLED THE CAMP AND ASSISTED IN GUIDING ATTACK.

MCHENRY

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Message Attributes

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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
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Drafter: n/a
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TAGS: PORG, PDEV, ZA, WA, SF, UNSC, (CHONA, MARK), (MULAISHO, DOMINIC)
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